A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, March 25. 1708.

WE have all this Week been allarm'd on the Account of the *French* invading *Scotland*, and many are the wise Conjectures of the People, what is become of them! Some will have them be gone to *Norway* or *Denemark* to fetch Water; if so, I shall begin to think, they went to *Scotland* but to *fetch Fire*, according to the true Meaning of that Proverb.

It is now the great Question among us, *will they land yet*, or are they baulk'd in their Design by the *English* Fleet?—I own, I am more out of Doubt that they will be baulked when they do land, than I am doubtful of their landing.

I am not for flattering our selves, that they will so easily give over a Design on which so much depends, and which they have so much Expectation from; I am too sensible of the Enemies Politicks and their general Management, to hope they will so soon despair; either their whole Project was a Chimera built on Wind and Froth, without Prospect, without rational Ground, without Probability, or to me it seems impossible, they should give it over so soon.

In this Uncertainty, however, it is very diverting to observe the Notions, some People entertain of an Action wholly dark, and in the Clouds to them; some will have all *Scotland* revolt to them, some will have no Body shew their Faces for them: But the Middle among all these Extremes is certainly the safe and true Way to pass our Judgment.

I will not say, if they had attempted to land at *Leith*, and our Fleet had not prevented them, that they should have been beaten

beaten off by the few Troops, which Lieutenant General the E. of *Leven* had with him there; not but that my Lord *Leven* would no doubt have discharg'd the Part of a good General, and an honest Man, but the Handful of Men with him could not expect to prevent their landing, had not the Appearing of the *English* Fleet prevented their attempting it.

I will not say, if they had landed at *Leith*, and master'd *Edinburgh*, *which must have been of Consequence*, but that they would have drawn in, or forc'd Abundance of poor unthinking People, to have taken on with them; Ay, Gentlemen, and so they would do at *London*, were the Case revers'd; for F—ls and K——s are to be found every where, and most of these two Sorts are *Jacobite*.

Nor yet will I say, that because they are disappointed at *Edinburgh*, tho' that is a very great Stroke, that therefore they cannot answer their End, or do us any Damage by going on Shoar anywhere else; and this I say, not that I fear or would prompt any Body else to fear, they should carry on their Designs to any thing fatal, at least to any Body but themselves; but I wish, every Man would put a right Value on the Thing, and not so slight this Invader, as to think his Project worth no Concern, nor worth any Guarding against.

No, Gentlemen, I hope and doubt, not but this Attempt will allarm all the honest Men in both Kingdoms, and especially fortifie them against carrying their private Party Resentments to a fatal Heigth against one another; if it were only on these Scores, (1.) that it gives the Enemy an Opportunity to attempt us, and encourages them to expect Help from our own Hands; (2.) It makes us jealous of one another, as if every Aversion to Coalition and mutual Friendship was an Invitation to the Enemy.

Now, Gentlemen, you may easily see, it does not follow, that even those that were to the utmost Extremity against the Union, must therefore be for Tyranny and *French* Power— I remember, when the *Scots* pass'd the Act of Security, and refused to joyn in with the Succession, it was presently suggested here, they would set up King *James* VIII. But they, that guess'd so ill, knew little of the Character of those Men, who form'd that Bill, who, tho' they would not come into the Succession at the Motion of *England*, and without Conditions, were yet as remote from *Jacobitism*, as any Men in *Britain*; only requir'd Security from *England* for the Liberty of their Country, a Request most reasonable, and which had in its Womb the very prolifick Seed of the Conjunction, which gender'd the Embrio of the Union, and at last brought it forth in Perfection.

And now, Gentlemen, let me tell you, in my next, I'll acquaint you with some Particulars, of what these disaffected *Presbyterians* have done in *Scotland*; those Fellows, that you say would bring in *French* Men or *Jacobites* or any Body, so they could but break the Union; and shall shew you the Difference between disaffected *Presbyterians*, as you call them, and disaffected *Tories* or *High-Flyers*, let them be Churchmen, or any thing; and convince you, that these poor abused People, tho' against the Union, scorn *French* Tyranny, as much as any of us.

MISCELLANEA.

ONE Word *now* to Mr. *Rehearsal*, or else he will want somewhat to exercise his railing Faculty; with his busie Sophistry he strives, if possible, to help on the *Jacobite* Cause at all Times, but now more industriously than ever: ——At a Juncture when others by the Sword are for setting it on Foot, and invading the present Constitution, he by his Pen *falls foul obliquely* upon the Person and Title of the QUEEN— And that he may not excuse himself by pretending, I only guess at Meanings, I put this fair Question, (*viz.*) Whether it is not just to argue that to be the Meaning of the Speaker,

Speaker, which is a necessary Consequence of his Words?

I acknowledge, that Mr. *Rehearsal*, when a Question pinches him, has a wonderful Dexterity in wilful Forgetfulness—This he has practis'd in the Questions following, which have been often renew'd, but in vain.

1. Whether *Britain* can have no happy Union but of Principles?
2. What the Union is, he means, when he proposes to unite the *Scots Non-Jurant* Bishops to the *English* Church?
3. Whether the present Establish'd Church of *England*, now acknowledging Queen ANN, be Schismatical, or not?

Not one of these Questions will he answer or speak to.

Upon this addressing my self to the *High-Flyers* of our Church, I ask them, if it is not a most scandalous thing, that they should embrace a Paper as the Advocate for their Church, which had four such Qualifications.

1. That it was wrote by a *Non Juror*.
2. Printed by a *Papist*.
3. Supported by the *Jacobites*.
4. Its Contents were *High Treason*.

To this he talks vauntingly, that I answer his Arguments with calling him *Jacobite*; No, no, Mr. *Rehearsal*, I answer none of your Arguments with it at all; I need no such Refuge; I only ask'd our Church mad Men, if they did not blush at espousing a *Jacobite* Advocate? And pray, will you hear one of your Arguments answer'd by Matter of Fact?

You cavill'd at my saying, *the Scots Bishops did not pray for the QUEEN as Supream Head*——And to back this, *tell us*, that neither do the Church of *England*—But if they do, it is volunteer—For which I refer you to the 55*th* Canon of the Church of *England*, which expresly obliges the Minister to pray for the Soveraign as Supream Governour in all Causes Ecclesiastical as well as Temporal: Now if he will distinguish between Head and Governour, I shall answer that, when I find him so weak as to fly to that Shift.

This is just as true as two Things Mr. *Rehearsal* has printed upon *me*. 1. That I meddled with the Story of the *Sandwich Standard*. 2. That I write my self *Esq*; because a Pyrate-Printer was pleas'd to put that upon me without my Order, when I was 400 Miles off—I won't call these LYES, in Decency to Mr. *Lesly*, Chancellor, *&c.* as they say, a Gentleman falsly writes himself, but I must tell him, they are dire & *Opposites to Truth*, let him give them what Title he thinks fit.

But, now Mr. *Rehearsal* must bear with me a little, for putting a Question to him upon his Meaning, in writing for Passive-Obedience, and telling us, *it had been better we had pursued that Doctrine still* and his arguing the Unlawfulness of resisting Tyrants; and this at a Time when a *FRENCH* PRETENDER is insulting the QUEEN.

Is not this a necessary Consequence, that if it be not lawful on any Account whatsoever to depose a Lawful King, that from thence it must be said, King *William* was an USURPER? What Her Majesty must be by the same Consequence, I leave that to him.

Now, if I invade his Meaning in this, *let him tell us*, to what Purpose is his Argument against resisting Tyranny. WE resisted King *James* as a Tyrant, WE depos'd him as such; WE, *that is*, *England* legally represented, and WE establish'd our Deliverer in the Room *of the Tyrant* deposed——After this, WE again, that is the Parliament, settled the Succession on the Branch of *Hannover*—*Now* by his Doctrine, the Parliament could not do this; and from K. *William* according to him all are Usurpers.—This is the Reason I charge him with High-Treason, and he ought to bless GOD for the Lenity of a Protestant Government, that suffers him to write what he pleases, in Defiance of two Acts of Parliament; one in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Time, which makes it a *Premunire* to speak, write, or maintain, that the Parliament of *England* cannot limit the Succession; and another of her present Majesty, which makes it High-Treason to do the same against the Protestant Succession.

To back his Glorious Doctrine of *absolute Submission*, he tells us, that GOD would not let the Children of *Israel* go, till *Pharoah* had given his Consent; and likened this

Consent

Consent to the Abdication of King *James*— I think, 'tis here yet another Passage of King *James*; *Pharaoh* consented to let *Israel* go: King *James* consented to restore *Magdalen* College and the City Charters, and then revok'd; just as King *James* stopt the Writts, when he heard the *Dutch* were shipwrack'd; just as Thieves, when pursued by guilty Consciences, restore stollen Goods; as Merchants in a Storm make Vows of a Candle as big as the Main-Mast, and put the Saint off with a Farthing Candle.

But then as to the borrowing the *Egyptian* Ornaments; this Gentleman says, that neither *Pharaoh* nor the Children of *Israel* knew any thing of going farther than three Days into the Wilderness, and then to return to *Egypt* again.

Monstrous! Did ever Man thus abuse the Holy Scriptures? How, Sir? Was the whole Congregation ignorant of GOD's Promise to deliver them? Did not *Joseph* foretell them on his Death-Bed, that GOD would bring them out of that Country, and made them swear to carry His Bones with them? Had they not the Promises of GOD which he swore to *Abraham* and his Seed, that he would give him the Land of *Canaan* to possess it? —— To say they did not know, that this was the Time, is to contradict Fact; for did not they testifie they knew it, and took a final Leave of *Egypt*, by taking up *Joseph's* Bones to carry with them.

It is plain therefore, they were despoiling the *Egyptians*, not borrowing with a Design to restore to them; so were they rebelling against *Pharoah* in not returning when he pursued; if the Command of GOD justifies them. *as no doubt it does*, then GOD commanded them to resist the Government of *Pharoah*.

But after this he challenges me to shew, *whenever GOD did approve of Subjects taking Arms against their Princes*; pray, what says Mr. *Rehearsal* to the Story of *Jehu*?——— Whom GOD by the Prophet anointed to be King in plain Interruption of Lineal Descent, and at his Inauguration the Prophet uses these Words, 2 *Kings*, *cap.* 9. *v.* 6, 7. *I have anointed thee King over the People of the Lord even over* Israel, *and thou shalt smite the House of* Ahab *THY MASTER*— The Crime for which this REBELLION was raised, and for which GOD determined to do thus by *Ahab*, was *Tyranny* and *Persecution*, and *nothing else*; *v.* 7. *That I may avenge the Blood of my Servants the PROPHETS, and the Blood OF ALL the Servants of the Lord*——*Viz.* Such as he honest Ministers starv'd in Gaols, in *Newgate*, the *Bass*, *Blackness Castle*, and the like; and all the Servants of the Lord murder'd in cold Blood, such as Collonel *Sidney*, Lord *Russel*, *Jarvis*, *Wood*, *College*, *Cornish*, &c. I think, here GOD approves and appointed a Servant to depose, nay to murther his Master, HIS King, and his LAWFUL King, the Lords ANOINTED King, a JURE DIVINO King, a King that had all the Sacred upon him, it was possible for a King to have.

When Mr. *Rehearsal* has swallow'd this Chalk Pear, we'll talk with him about the Revolt of the ten Tribes, who rejected their lawful Prince, and set up one of their own, and tell him how GOD approv'd that also.

When this is done, let him brand the Force of the Revolution, *for we own it a Force, and a Legal Force*, if he can.

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